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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT
MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 2003

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Provocation - Milliyet (8/24)
Peshmerges Play with the Fire - Hurriyet (8/24)
U.S. Notified Turkey in Advance about the Raids against
Turkoman and PUK Bureaus -Hurriyet
U.S. Mediates Cease Fire Between Turkomans and Kurds -
Milliyet
U.S. Pressure on Turkomans Grows - Turkiye
Chaos Continues in Iraq - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS

US Opens Fire on Turkomans - Cumhuriyet (8/24)
Turkish Liaison Officers Monitor Tensions in Iraq -
Cumhuriyet
Newsweek: Americans Believe that US is Mired in Swamp in
Iraq - Yeni Safak
Tensions in Kirkuk Eases, Turkish Government Monitors the
Developments-Zaman
Cabinet Meets Today - Radikal
Iraqi Religious Leaders Do Not Want Turkish Troops in Iraq -
Radikal

BRIEFING

Turkoman Tension in Iraq: Weekend papers give extensive coverage to growing violence and turmoil in Iraq. Saturday's "Cumhuriyet" reports that PUK militants opened fire on Turkomans in Kirkuk during a demonstration over a destroyed sacred Turkoman tomb. Sunday's "Turkiye" reports that 8 Turkomans were killed during Peshmerge-Turkoman clashes. Sunday's "Milliyet" describes the killing of the Turkomans as a provocation. Sunday's "Zaman" reports that the US troops raided the Iraqi Turkoman Front Headquarters and seized some weapons. However, today's papers carry conflicting reports about the incidents in Kirkuk. Today's "Cumhuriyet" reports that the US raid wasn't only against the Turkoman Bureau but the PUK bureau as well. "Milliyet" draws attention to the five-hour meeting which took place yesterday in Iraq between US military officials, ethnic, political and religious leaders. At the meeting Kurds and Turkomans agreed to pay compensation to families of people from both sides who were killed. With that agreement, US was able to establish a cease fire between the Turkomans and the Kurds. "Turkiye" stresses that pressures on the Turkomans is growing in Kirkuk. Today's "Cumhuriyet" draws attention to the words of Turkoman rep. Ahmet Muratli that Barzani and Talabani's militants were trying to avert the deployment of Turkish troops in Iraq by creating tension. FM Gul said that Turkey issued a warning to PUK representative in Ankara and PM Erdogan stressed that Turkey was cooperating closely with Washington and Baghdad. On Sunday, police moved against a radical nationalist group protesting the incidents in Kirkuk, in front of the PUK bureau in Ankara. Twenty three policemen were injured and 150 demonstrators were detained.

Cabinet Meeting: All papers report that the main item on the agenda of today's Cabinet Meeting will be the Turkish troop deployment in Iraq. The issue will be discussed once again at the NSC meeting in September and the final decision

will be left to the parliament.

EDITORIAL OPINION

"Prudence and calm"

Semih Idiz noted in the mass appeal Aksam (8/25): "Kurds are worried about the enhanced cooperation between the U.S. and Turkey on Iraq. . Americans have understood that even in a federal system, the central authority in Iraq should be strong enough to work for the integrity of Iraq, not for a particular region or ethnicity. Kurds dislike such a development, for they are seeking a loose federation for Iraq with extensive rights for them. . Turkey and Kurds will have to learn to live together. They will either choose living under constant tension, or cooperate for the sake of stability. . It is Turkey's responsibility to establish dialog channels with the Kurds."

"Turkey's interest in Iraq"

Asli Aydintasbas commented in the mass appeal Sabah (8/25): "For many years, the Turkomen have been the natural supporters of the Iraqi opposition that suffered under the Saddam regime. However, Ankara removed all Turkomen leaders who had preferred independent action. . Ankara has unnecessarily ordered the Turkoman Front to withdraw from all forums which included Shiite Kurds and independent Arab dissidents. Shiite Turkomen are excluded from the Front. . Turkey must now actually strengthen the Turkoman Front it had largely weakened in the past. Autonomy is essential for the Turkoman Front. . An independent and powerful Turkomen block can be a guarantor for stability. Is Ankara ready for it?"

EDELMAN